Discovery of new species of fresh water fish

*190. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four year study done as a joint project by the National Agricultural Technology Project and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have discovered eight new species of fresh water fish;

(b) if so, the names of new species;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the study has also highlighted the fact that fifty-five species of Kerala's fresh water fish are on the verge of extinction; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take to save the endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under NATP project entitled "Germplasm Inventory, Evaluation and Genebanking of fresh water fishes," the names of new species described are Salarius reticulates, Nemacheilus periyarensis, Garra emarginata, Garra mlapparaensis, Homaloptera silasa, Garra travancoria, Garra nilamburensis and Tor remadevi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Some of the fresh water fish species of Kerala are placed under threatened (endangered/vulnerable) category. Captive breeding techniques have been developed for eleven endangered fresh water fish species, namely, Clarias dussumieri, Gonoproktopterus curmuca, Horabagrus brachysoma, Labeo dussumieri, Ompok malabaricus, Chela fasciata, Nemacheilus triangularis, Pristolepis marginata, Puntius melanostigma, Puntius melanampyx, Puntius pookodensis. This technique will be highly useful for conservation of such threatened fish species.